

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 SSC-01 /066 W
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R 081035Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5139
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TENRAN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7830

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, AF, PGOV
SUBJECT: HIGH COUNCIL OF THE ARMED FORCES: TWELFTH REMAINING
MEMBER IDENTIFIED

REF: KABUL 7700

1. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY A NORMALLY WELL INFORMED SOURCE IN
THE MILITARY THAT THE TWELFTH MEMBER OF THE HIGH COUNCIL OF
THE ARMED FORCES (HCAF) IS A "MAJOR KHALIL."

2. COMMENT: A MAJOR ABDUL KHALIL WAS A LIEUTENANT IN THE
15TH ARMORED BRIGADE AT THE TIME OF THE 1973 COUP, AND SUB-
SEQUENTLY SERVED AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE 88TH ARTILLERY
BRIGADE, AS WELL AS ON THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, UNTIL ITS DEMISE
EARLIER THIS YEAR. THAT KHALIL, TOGETHER WITH COLONELS SARWAR
AND FARAHI AND MAJOR MAULADAD (REFTEL) WERE AMONG THE LAST
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OF THE ORIGINAL COUP PARTICIPANTS WHO STILL HELD THEIR SEATS
ON THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE UNTIL THE END, AND WERE ALSO MEMBERS
OF LAST WINTER'S LOYA JIRGAH (GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY) WHICH
RATIFIED THE CONSTITUTION AND ELECTED PRESIDENT DAOUD TO A SIX-
YEAR TERM. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, THAT THESE FOUR TOOK
ANY PARTICULARLY ACTIVE PART IN THE LOYA JIRGAH'S PROCEEDINGS,
AND THEIR LAST PUBLIC APPEARANCE WAS AT DAOUD'S CONSTITUTION-

SIGNING CEREMONY ON FEBRUARY 24, 1977.

3. FURTHERMORE, ALONG WITH MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE GENERAL GHULAM HAIDERQASULI, KHALILQON ET AL, WERE ALSO THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY REPRESENTED ON THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, WEHUS, THE NEW HCAF AGAIN ASSUMING THESE RECURRENT REPORTS ON MEMBERSHIP ARE ACCURATE, CONTAINS ALL OF THE KEY MILITARY COUP PARTICIPANTS WHO WERE POLITICALLY ADEPT ENOUGH TO SURVIVE THE ALMOST FOUR YEARS OF MANEUVERING WHICH TOOK PLACE WITHIN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

4. A REAL FIX ON THE MEANING OF THESE APPOINTMENTS MUST AWAIT THE OBTAINING OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, ESPECIALLY REGARDING THE FUTURE POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HCAF. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS INTRIGUING THAT PRESIDENT DAOUD, FOR REASONS NOT YET CLEAR, HAS DECIDED TO INCLUDE THIS SPECIFIC GROUP OF OFFICERS IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF A BODY WHICH, ON PAPER AT LEAST, COULD CONSTITUTE THE NATION'S HIGHEST MILITARY POLICY ORGANIZATION. (ARTICLE SIXTY-FIVE OF THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES THAT MEMBERS OF THE HCAF ARE AMONG THOSE WHO ARE AUTOMATICALLY MEMBERS OF THE LOYA JIRGAH, THE "SUPREME MANIFESTATION OF THE POWER AND WILL" OF THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN.)
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